

## CLAIMS

2 I claim:

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4           1. A method of making sausage, comprising,  
5                combining a plurality of ingredients including,  
6                but not limited to, a lean meat mixture, powdered  
7                vinegar, and an encapsulated food-grade acid to  
8                form a meat emulsion,

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10 extruding the meat emulsion from a tube into a  
11 tubular casing to create an encased sausage  
12 strand,

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14 linking the encased sausage strand into a linking  
15 mechanism to divide the strand into a plurality of  
16 sausage links thereby creating an elongated linked  
17 encased sausage strand, and

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23        2. The method of claim 1 wherein the curing is done by  
24        naturally smoking the sausage strand.

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2       3. The method of claim 1 wherein the food-grade acid is  
3        encapsulated citric acid.

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5       4. A sausage product made from the process, comprising:  
6                combining a plurality of ingredients including,  
7                but not limited to, a lean meat mixture, powdered  
8                vinegar, and an encapsulated food-grade acid to  
9                form a meat emulsion,

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11               extruding the meat emulsion from a tube into a  
12                tubular casing to create an encased sausage  
13                strand,

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15               linking the encased sausage strand into a linking  
16                mechanism to divide the strand into a plurality of  
17                sausage links thereby creating an elongated linked  
18                encased sausage strand, and

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20               curing the elongated linked encased sausage strand to  
21                eradicate bacteria and impart color and flavor to the  
22                meat emulsion.

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24       5. The sausage product of claim 4, wherein the curing

1       is done by naturally smoking the sausage strand.

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3       6. The sausage product of claim 4, wherein the  
4       encapsulated food-grade acid is encapsulated citric  
5       acid.

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